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IN RE: ARKANSAS SENATE DISTRICTS and )  
ARKANSAS HOUSE DISTRICTS. )  
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ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR  
MR. LARRY CRANE

## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 \* \* \* \* \*

3 TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2001

4 \* \* \* \* \*

5 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: Ladies and  
6 gentlemen, we want to go ahead and get started  
7 so we can get all of the meeting on time. So  
8 if you would, please, everyone take a seat, we  
9 will get under way in just a moment.

10 Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to call  
11 this meeting to order of the Board of  
12 Apportionment. It is a real privilege and  
13 honor for us to be a part of true democracy in  
14 Arkansas, and that's what this is all about.

15 As everyone is perhaps aware, every ten  
16 years when the census is taken, under the  
17 Arkansas Constitution, it is the duty of the  
18 Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of  
19 State to form the Board of Apportionment. Then  
20 it becomes our duty to make the lines for  
21 representative districts for the House of  
22 Representatives, as well as for the Senate  
23 districts, in the Arkansas General  
24 Assembly.

25 It is a very tedious task that requires an

1 enormous amount of time on the part of staff,  
2 and I think all of us would be the first to  
3 tell you that each of us have designated staff  
4 persons who have spent literally hundreds and  
5 hundreds and perhaps into the thousands of  
6 hours cumulatively on the various partitions of  
7 these legislative districts. I want to express  
8 my appreciation to all of those staff folks for  
9 exceptionally hard work. They have redrawn  
10 these districts over and over again.

11 We approach this with a sense of two  
12 things: Number one, there is no perfect way to  
13 do it. If everyone lived very uniformly in  
14 counties with an exact proportion of  
15 population, or if we had the opportunity to say  
16 to a thousand people here and a couple of  
17 thousand here, "The good news is, all the  
18 counties and communities will be divided  
19 evenly, the bad news is, get on the bus, you  
20 are being moved in order to make that happen."

21 Obviously, that's not possible. So we  
22 would tell you on the front end, it is not a  
23 perfect system, and that's why these hearings  
24 are being held. We want your input. The  
25 decisions are not final, and they won't be

1           until we have conducted hearings like this in  
2           11 different Arkansas communities to make sure  
3           that we have all the input possible from as  
4           many people as we can.

5           If I could make just a personal note, I  
6           know many of you are aware my wife had surgery  
7           yesterday, and several have asked, and so let  
8           me give the report one time and make it easier  
9           on me and save time later. She is doing well,  
10          and we don't expect any complications  
11          long-term. Because the doctor reports and  
12          pathology reports are going to come out early  
13          this afternoon, I will be departing from the  
14          group after this meeting. And I had hoped to go  
15          on to Jonesboro and Forrest City, but I'm  
16          going to have to go back, and I just feel like  
17          I need to be there. I'm sure the folks in  
18          Jonesboro and Forrest City will understand.

19          I could tell you that I didn't want to  
20          miss this meeting, because you are the  
21          important people that I want to hear from. So  
22          -- but I really appreciate your prayers for  
23          her. We anticipate that all the reports -- and  
24          all the preliminary reports are excellent. I  
25          think she found out this morning when she tried

1 to stand up and walk that she wasn't quite  
2 ready for that. So I got a chuckle out of the  
3 little note in the newspaper to her that she  
4 might be running the decathlon down the hall.  
5 She may be, but it won't be today. At least  
6 that's the early indication. But thank you for  
7 your prayers, that means a lot for us.

8 Also, we agreed last week after we sweated  
9 through our first three hearings in Fort Smith,  
10 Fayetteville, and Mountain Home on days where  
11 the temperature was over a hundred and our mode  
12 of transportation had no air conditioning that  
13 never again would we go to these in coat and  
14 ties. We appreciate those of you who did  
15 today, but it is an agreement among ourselves,  
16 and so we are not being disrespectful, we are  
17 just trying to be comfortable in the hot July  
18 summer of Arkansas.

19 We will get under way in just a moment. I  
20 wanted to just mention that our task really is  
21 one in which we want to be as fair to you as  
22 possible. Our job is to try to figure out how  
23 these lines can be drawn so that the citizens  
24 can best be represented following the ultimate  
25 desire of the constitutional mandate of one

1 person, one vote. And that's what we will  
2 achieve as best we can with population  
3 divisions. Your comments are going to be very  
4 important.

5 In a few moments, after we have had  
6 opening remarks from the Attorney General and  
7 Secretary of State, there is a microphone here  
8 at the front, we would ask that all comments be  
9 made in the microphone, not only so that others  
10 who are here can hear well, but also so that  
11 the court reporter, who is taking a transcript  
12 of all the proceedings, will be able to get the  
13 information necessary.

14 When you come to the microphone, please  
15 give us your name and your community and then  
16 make any comments that you have. We would ask  
17 that in order to get as many people in as  
18 possible, you keep your comments as succinct as  
19 possible. The only other request we would have  
20 is that rather than waiting until someone  
21 finishes and then walking to the microphone, go  
22 ahead and just sort of cue up at the microphone  
23 if you have a comment, and we will try to get  
24 to all the comments that we have here for  
25 today.

1                   And with that, I'm going to turn it over  
2                   first to Secretary of State Sharon Priest and  
3                   then Attorney General Mark Pryor.

4                   SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Thank  
5                   you, Governor. Good morning. I'm pleased to  
6                   see so many people here today, because I really  
7                   think that this is a very important part of the  
8                   re-districting process. I also want to  
9                   reiterate that these lines, as you see them on  
10                  the draft plan, are not carved in stone. They  
11                  are subject to change and, in fact, all of us  
12                  would have been surprised if we would have  
13                  brought out a plan that on first blush  
14                  everybody decided they loved it and nothing was  
15                  going to change.

16                  I would caution you that this is not a  
17                  two-year plan, and not a four-year plan, it is  
18                  a ten-year plan. So I want you to look at the  
19                  plan with the thought in mind that this is how  
20                  you will be represented for the next ten years.

21                  And I think that's very, very important to  
22                  this process. I would also like to commend the  
23                  staff, because they have worked very hard, they  
24                  have worked together, and they have done a good  
25                  job of making sure that everyone has been kept

1 informed.

2 For the most part, all three staffs drew  
3 lines together, and seldom were they -- was one  
4 office not represented when those lines were  
5 being drawn. And in fact, that was always made  
6 a special point of making sure that everybody  
7 was up to speed on it, because that was a very  
8 important part of the process. There has been  
9 a great deal of trust and a great deal of  
10 camaraderie with the staff in this process.  
11 And I think that that's important for you all  
12 to know.

13 I think it is important for you to know  
14 that we did a good job with the census this  
15 year, that we had growth of almost 14 percent,  
16 which was much higher than what was  
17 anticipated, but it has presented some  
18 challenges in terms of re-districting.

19 Things can't remain the same. For  
20 example, a Senate district now -- the ideal  
21 Senate district now is required to have about  
22 9,300 people more than it did ten years ago,  
23 and the ideal House district is required to  
24 have about 3,200 people more than it did ten  
25 years ago. So it has presented some



1 challenges, but overall, that's good for us,  
2 because of turn-back funds.

3 And I guess the last thing I want you to  
4 know is that all three of us are elected, and  
5 it has been our goal to please as many people  
6 as possible in this process, not to make you  
7 angry. So we are still in that mode. We are  
8 trying very hard to make sure that as many  
9 people as possible are satisfied with this plan  
10 when it comes out finally. And I anticipate  
11 that there will be one plan that comes out.  
12 Thank you.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: I want to  
14 thank y'all for being here. One thing I'm  
15 proud of is the work the staff has done. I  
16 think the Governor said it has been hundreds of  
17 hours, that is literally true. One thing I'm  
18 proud of is that there is not a set of  
19 Republican software and not a set of Republican  
20 conferences that you go to to learn how to do  
21 this, and there is not a set of Democratic  
22 meetings and Democratic software. It is all  
23 together, and our staffs have worked very, very  
24 closely together to form the Apportionment  
25 Board staff.

1           And we only do this once every ten years,  
2           so it is kind of -- we have to re-invent it  
3           pretty much every ten years, but they have done  
4           a great job. And as Sharon mentioned a few  
5           moments ago, this is a draft. And I know that  
6           there are a lot of folks here who want to  
7           express their opinions, we certainly welcome  
8           those, and that's why we are here, we are here  
9           to listen.

10           And one thing about this process that  
11           y'all need to keep in perspective, and I know  
12           we do, is this is democracy. I saw Mr.  
13           Humphries a few minutes ago, I said, "You are  
14           about to see democracy in action." And it is  
15           true. This is democracy. This is how -- these  
16           districts are how we will elect our state  
17           senators and state representatives for the next  
18           decade, and it is very important, we take this  
19           very seriously, and we are here to listen. And  
20           listen we do, because I know we have had  
21           hundreds of phone calls and meetings and  
22           letters and E-Mails and whatever else, Faxes  
23           and everything else during the course of this  
24           process, since the first of the year, and since  
25           the census data came out.

1           And the other day, maybe I was a little  
2           tired and maybe I had had too much input, I  
3           don't know, but I decided to play a joke on a  
4           state senator, Bill, I won't name who it was, I  
5           don't want to embarrass one of your colleagues,  
6           but I decided to play a joke on a state  
7           senator, so I called him up and I said,  
8           "Senator, I've got some bad news for you." He  
9           said, "What is that?" I said, "We have  
10          eliminated your district." He said, "What?" I  
11          said, "Yeah. Your neighbor to the east came in  
12          and he sort of made his pitch and gave us his  
13          reasons, so we gave him half of your district."  
14          I said, "Then your neighbor to the west came  
15          in and he made his pitch and kind of pleaded  
16          his case and we gave him the other half of the  
17          district." He said, "Mark, let me tell you  
18          about those two guys." He said, "My neighbor  
19          to the east, he is a shyster, his dad before  
20          him was a shyster." He said, "My neighbor to  
21          the west, he is just in the Senate to line his  
22          own pockets. He never goes to the meetings, he  
23          never does anything. I have got to vote for  
24          him half the time." I said, "Senator, look, I  
25          was just kidding. I was just pulling your leg,

1 I didn't mean to strike a nerve." And he said,  
2 "Mark," he said, "how could you make me say  
3 that about two of the dearest friends a man  
4 could ever have?"

5 So that is kind of how it works sometimes.  
6 It is kind of emotional, we understand that.  
7 And we really are trying to be fair, really are  
8 trying to do the right thing. And I have  
9 already had some comments here, I talked to  
10 Larry, I talked to the mayor, I talked to a few  
11 folks around, Mike Wilson for a minute, and we  
12 really are trying to be fair and try to do the  
13 right thing. We want your input, and we are  
14 here to listen. So thank you for having us.

15 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: Next I would like  
16 to call upon Butch Reeves, who is chief legal  
17 counsel in the Governor's office and has been  
18 one of the staff designees from our area to  
19 work on this process. And he is going to give  
20 a little background of how the process develops  
21 and where the maps stand currently in the draft  
22 form, and then we will open it up for your  
23 comments. Butch?

24 MR. OLAN REEVES: Just briefly, I kind of  
25 want to tell you how the process started. Last

1 fall, the staff, Tim Humphries from Sharon  
2 Priest's office and Larry Crane from Mark  
3 Pryor's office and myself, drove around the  
4 state, went to about 13 hearings and said,  
5 "What do y'all want?" We didn't come to Beebe,  
6 I don't remember where we came up  
7 here.

8 Anyway, then we got the numbers in March,  
9 we loaded them in the computer, and third week  
10 of April, we sat down, and for days and days  
11 and days and days and days, really, until, you  
12 know, we got the maps printed, and even this  
13 week we have been looking at suggested changes,  
14 we drew the maps.

15 Now, because of the census numbers, the  
16 state -- as Ms. Priest said, the state grew  
17 13.7 percent. Each House district this time --  
18 the ideal district should have 26,734 people,  
19 as close to that as possible in every House  
20 district. Every Senate district should have  
21 about 76,383, or as close to that as possible.

22 There is a variance allowed roughly five  
23 percent over and five percent under that makes  
24 your plan constitutional if you are within that  
25 ten percent range. But we tried to get as

1 close to zero percent as possible from those  
2 numbers.

3 The Arkansas Constitution requires that  
4 the Board decision on the maps that you see  
5 here today, when they ultimately vote, that it  
6 not be arbitrary. In order to do that, there  
7 were guidelines that we followed. Those  
8 guidelines were established in the courts by  
9 the U.S. Supreme Court and other federal  
10 courts, and roughly, these are them. The  
11 geographic considerations that we considered  
12 were compactness, that the districts be as  
13 close together as possible, that each district  
14 itself not be spread out.

15 That wasn't always possible. It wasn't  
16 easy. When you have rural counties that have  
17 not much population, you have to spread the  
18 district out. If a district -- current  
19 district lost population, it had to get bigger,  
20 there wasn't any other way to do it.  
21 Contiguity, that means that they touch.  
22 Preservation of political subdivisions, such as  
23 city and counties.

24 Now, obviously, if your city is bigger  
25 than 26,734, it is going to split. If your

1 city is bigger than 76,283, on the Senate side,  
2 it is going to have to be split. So we tried  
3 to preserve cities and counties as much as we  
4 could, but with a hundred House districts and  
5 75 counties, and 35 Senate districts and 35  
6 counties, some places are split, there is just  
7 no other way to do it.

8 The other considerations, I call political  
9 and legal, are preservation of communities of  
10 interest. We heard from some counties, you  
11 know, "We are hill people, we don't want to be  
12 with those flatlanders." I don't know what the  
13 difference is, but that's what they say. So we  
14 tried to take rivers, if we had to split a  
15 county, split it along a river, a creek, a  
16 major highway. Some counties weren't split,  
17 some are.

18 It was really, really difficult when you  
19 have to do the whole state. If you are looking  
20 at a district in isolation, it is real easy to  
21 draw a nice district, but when you have  
22 districts around you, counties around you that  
23 lost population and yours grew, changes are  
24 going to have to be made.

25 The other things we did, we looked at

1       preserving the cores of existing districts, and  
2       that included some incumbents. We don't have  
3       any incumbents on the Senate side paired under  
4       the draft plan. On the House side, we have a  
5       few. We have some, not very many. It is just  
6       difficult in counties that didn't grow as fast  
7       as 13.7 percent to try not to have jagged lines  
8       and go for, you know, 400 miles to draw a  
9       district, but we tried not to.

10       And the last thing is, compliance with  
11       Section Two of the Voting Rights Act. That's  
12       always a consideration that the courts require  
13       us to do. As you will see on the draft plan,  
14       these were finished the 2nd of July. Since  
15       then and before then, we have had suggested  
16       changes made, both about Pulaski County, about  
17       White County, about Lonoke County. And some of  
18       the maps that were over there, we didn't have  
19       enough for everybody, because they are very  
20       expensive to reproduce, so we made about 25 or  
21       30, so if you have one, the suggested changes  
22       are on there, what to do about Jacksonville,  
23       what to do about White County, some fixes that  
24       were suggested by different people. We had a  
25       suggestion today in Prairie County about a



1 precinct that probably was inadvertently the  
2 only precinct in Prairie County that was split  
3 off. We are probably going to put that back.  
4 It doesn't make sense to have that one precinct  
5 out. That was just a suggested change from  
6 Prairie County.

7 But here are the maps. They are a draft.

8 We want to hear what you have to say. We  
9 prefer it in the form of comments as to what  
10 you would like, what you would like to see,  
11 what you would like us to change, so that the  
12 Board can hear that.

13 There is a court reporter here to record  
14 everything you say, so if you do have comments,  
15 please come down to the microphone, state your  
16 name and the community you are coming from and  
17 concisely tell us what your comment is.

18 So if someone wants to go first. I think  
19 somebody from Jacksonville wanted to be first.

20 Senator Gwatney?

21 SENATOR BILL GWATNEY: Well, I rode with  
22 Mike Wilson, he is in a hurry. One thing that  
23 troubles me about, you just said that, talking  
24 about incumbents, you don't have any existing  
25 senators that will be facing each other in a

1           contested race. Ten years ago, obviously, we  
2           had Knox Nelson and Jay Bradford in a race, ten  
3           years prior to that, I believe Bill Walmsley  
4           and Jim Woods were in a race.

5           So I get the sense that when you talked  
6           about core of existing districts, that there  
7           was some concern about not having senators face  
8           one another. I can tell you, as an elected  
9           senator and as a business leader in my  
10          community, that troubles me somewhat, because  
11          quite honestly, if this process was followed as  
12          it was ten years ago and ten years prior to  
13          that, I think that you would have some  
14          contested races. So I think, I would hope that  
15          the Board would consider the fact that these  
16          people should not be protected by drawing  
17          districts that keep them from running against  
18          their colleagues.

19          Secondly, when you talk about communities  
20          of interest, our community in Jacksonville,  
21          30,000, is split in half. I cannot think of a  
22          community of interest greater than the city in  
23          which I have lived in for 41 years, and yet it  
24          is going to be divided. And I find that  
25          particularly troubling with 12,000 residents

1 from our city, for the past 30 years, have been  
2 voting in one Senate district together for the  
3 past 30 years and now we will no longer be  
4 doing that.

5 Thankfully, you found the wisdom to  
6 include us with the City of Sherwood, who we  
7 have developed quite a community of interest  
8 with, and we are still with them, half of us  
9 are, anyway. And I would hope that you would  
10 look at our city and realize that our city is a  
11 lot different than a lot of towns in the sense  
12 that, you know, we have got an Air Force base  
13 here, we have got retirees here, we have a  
14 school district that we have, water issues,  
15 road issues, these utility type issues that are  
16 very important when you are representing an  
17 area like that to have that ability to have  
18 your whole community together.

19 I just would like to say that when you  
20 talk about incumbents, with term limits today,  
21 incumbents really doesn't mean as much as it  
22 used to, because the state senator that gets  
23 elected this next cycle could, in fact, only  
24 serve four more years, yet these districts  
25 could be for ten. Someone could only serve for

1 four more years, yet these communities are  
2 forever. They are forever.

3 And so I would hope that you would take in  
4 consideration, the folks from Lonoke County  
5 have their signs here, and the folks from  
6 Jacksonville do. That's what makes Arkansas  
7 special, is the sense of community. And I would  
8 hope that you would take that in consideration  
9 with our community in Jacksonville and keep us  
10 whole with our city up here, Sherwood, like we  
11 have been for the past 30 years. That's of  
12 prime importance to us. Thank you very much.

13 MR. BOBBY GLOVER: Governor Huckabee and  
14 Secretary Priest and Attorney General Mark  
15 Pryor, I consider it an honor to be with you  
16 today and speak to you in regard to this very  
17 important issue. Bobby Glover, State  
18 Representative from Carlisle. And I'm here  
19 today to endorse the proposed Senate District  
20 Number 28. That includes presently all of  
21 Lonoke County, it includes all of Prairie  
22 County, and it includes most all of Arkansas  
23 County, down to DeWitt.

24 And if I may reminisce just for a few  
25 minutes, because I think the past certainly

1 strengthens our position today. For a number  
2 of years, Prairie and Lonoke County had a  
3 gentlemen's agreement where one term the  
4 Senator would come from Prairie County, and  
5 then the next term it would come from Lonoke  
6 County, and they would switch back and forth.  
7 And that gentlemen's agreement was broken, and  
8 as a result of it, the people got really up in  
9 arms about it, there was an election contest.  
10 By the way, I happened to be the Circuit Court  
11 Reporter at that time. And the people decided  
12 that they wanted to do differently, so they ran  
13 a write-in candidate, which was Charles George  
14 from Cabot. He was elected as senator.

15 Governor and Secretary of State Priest and  
16 Attorney General Mark Pryor, that was 40 years  
17 ago. And we have not had a senator since that  
18 time. I was led to the House in 1972 and  
19 started serving in 1973. At that time, Senator  
20 Knox Nelson was the senator, he was followed by  
21 Senator Jay Bradford and then by Senator  
22 Gullett.

23 We have a county, as far as Lonoke County  
24 is concerned, of over 50,000 people, and  
25 certainly it plays a great part as far as

1 politically and also economically, and we feel  
2 the time has come that Lonoke County should get  
3 an opportunity to elect a senator from Lonoke  
4 County. Everyone is unified on this. I have  
5 not heard one single solitary person from  
6 Lonoke County that is not in support of this.  
7 And I'm not going to start mentioning a lot of  
8 different ones and names and so on and so  
9 forth, and whatnot, but I'm talking about  
10 everyone, whether it be the county government,  
11 city government, school district, or whomever.

12 Let me also say that I also represent  
13 Prairie County, and I will represent Prairie  
14 County soon to be 20 years, either all or part  
15 of Prairie County. And they also are very,  
16 very supportive of this proposed Senate  
17 District 28.

18 I also represent Arkansas County, which  
19 takes in Stuttgart and goes all the way down to  
20 DeWitt. And I can tell you here today that  
21 they are also very, very supportive of proposed  
22 Senate District 28, with this exception, DeWitt  
23 is left out of it, and it ties DeWitt in with  
24 Pine Bluff. We have the same situation we now  
25 have with Lonoke County being tied in with Pine

1 Bluff. So, with that exception, I just want  
2 each and every one of you to know that I  
3 certainly endorse this proposal and hope that  
4 you could bring in DeWitt in time. Thank you  
5 very much.

6 MR. TOM SWAIM: I'm Tommy Swaim, Mayor of  
7 the City of Jacksonville, Arkansas. Senator  
8 Gwatney did an excellent job of reiterating  
9 with you some of the problems we have. I  
10 wanted to tell you that his sentiments are  
11 shared not only by myself, but by all ten of  
12 our City Council members who happen to be here,  
13 and a number of local citizens who are  
14 concerned, not that we are being put together  
15 with Sherwood, which are our dear friends, or  
16 parts of North Little Rock, but that we are  
17 being split as a city.

18 We are the only city that I can find in  
19 the State of Arkansas of our size that is being  
20 divided up. I can understand areas wanting a  
21 whole county to stay whole, but to split a city  
22 our size seems very unfair to us. We have  
23 worked with your staff, and I have spoken with  
24 everyone but the Governor on this issue  
25 personally. We hope that you will reconsider

1           that, we would like to stay in the same  
2           district with our friends in Sherwood, but we  
3           would like you to consider keeping Jacksonville  
4           whole so that we might be able to compete in a  
5           senatorial election. Thank you.

6           MR. REEDIE RAY: I'm Reddie Ray, Alderman  
7           from the City of Jacksonville. I'm elected  
8           through a city at large vote, even though I  
9           represent a ward in the City of Jacksonville,  
10          and I represent all of the people from the City  
11          of Jacksonville from one city boundary areas to  
12          another, and they can call me at any time. I  
13          would like to see the City of Jacksonville stay  
14          together, like it has been in the past.

15          The gossip on the street is that we want a  
16          super minority district. If we had a super  
17          minority district in Jacksonville, I wouldn't  
18          be elected today. In some cases, a minority  
19          district is all right, but for the City of  
20          Jacksonville, it is a killer. Thank you.

21          MR. RANDY MINTON: I am State  
22          Representative Randy Minton from Lonoke County,  
23          and I would like to enter into the record some  
24          historical maps concerning Lonoke County, what  
25          has happened in the past, and also some



1        petitions of people who were not able to be  
2        here today. And then I would just like to take  
3        a minute to voice my support for the way  
4        District 28 is being drawn, and show you a  
5        little bit of history about what has happened  
6        to Lonoke County.

7                We have -- we feel for any town that has  
8        been split, but we also know that over the last  
9        40 years, in fact, since 1958, we haven't had a  
10       senator from our county. This is the map for  
11       1950, the census, which had Lonoke County,  
12       Prairie, White, and Woodruff together, and this  
13       was the district in which Charles George was  
14       elected as a write-in candidate. So that  
15       changed in 1960, and here is a copy of the '66  
16       senate district map after, I think, there was a  
17       court challenge. And you will see that Lonoke  
18       County, which had 24,500 people in it, was  
19       placed in with Pulaski County, which had five  
20       senate seats total for this district. So you  
21       know our influence was a little bit limited  
22       with 24,500 people. And in fact, Senator  
23       George didn't even run for re-election.

24               Then we move up to 1970 and 1980, and you  
25       see Lonoke County was drawn in with Jefferson

1 County. Again, we were a minority area, being  
2 drawn in with Jefferson County, and it has  
3 basically stayed the same until our current map  
4 in 1990. And that map shows that we were then  
5 divided into three different senate districts.

6 We had population of about 39,000 people at  
7 that time, now we've got nearly 53,000. But we  
8 were in a senate district -- two senate  
9 districts that tied to Jefferson County, and  
10 then this other senate district was tied to  
11 White County in Searcy.

12 So we feel like that we have grown and it  
13 is time that we have an opportunity to elect a  
14 senator from Lonoke County. I appreciate all  
15 the hard work and the patience of the people on  
16 your staff, because every time we heard a  
17 little fire storm getting started, we would  
18 crank up the telephones, or we would crank up  
19 the E-Mails, and these guys told me one day I  
20 had cost them two days in time working as we  
21 were getting people to generate phone calls and  
22 E-Mails.

23 But the people of Lonoke County are very  
24 unified on this. In fact, we've got a few  
25 people that have signs out there, if they would

1 hold them up, you can see that they have -- we  
2 have brought a pretty good contingency of  
3 people here. So I would -- I applaud your work  
4 to this point. District 28 is the way we would  
5 like to see it be for the final version. And I  
6 appreciate all the hard work you have done.  
7 Thank you.

8 PASTOR JAMES BOLDEN: My name is Pastor  
9 James Bolden, I'm a pastor in Jacksonville,  
10 Arkansas, and I'm not an electoral -- elected  
11 official, I'm chosen by God to do what I'm  
12 doing. But I wanted to come and make a  
13 statement concerning the splitting of the City  
14 of Jacksonville. The scripture plainly tells  
15 us that we have to be of one accord. For years  
16 we have been of one accord, and I have seen the  
17 growth in the city and experiencing a growth in  
18 the city.

19 And I'm coming to you as a man of God with  
20 quite a few followers and a lot of influence in  
21 the city and neighborhood, asking that you keep  
22 our city together, because there is strength in  
23 unity. Now, I'm not concerned about the  
24 incumbents, that's not my worry. My worry is  
25 the city. I want to make sure the city is

1 unified. And I'm here with a lot of my  
2 brethren from the city, and would ask them to  
3 stand. And I would have brought more, but I  
4 couldn't get more to come today because of  
5 work.

6 But one thing I want you to understand is  
7 that we don't want a split to be an option. It  
8 is like divorce, you don't want divorce to be  
9 an option. You, the Governor, have a strong  
10 stand on that, and when you split a city, that  
11 is like a separation, it is like a divorce.  
12 I'm standing on one side of the street, making  
13 a decision. I have seen the compromise, the  
14 compromise is not good enough. We need to be  
15 together. Jacksonville needs to be unified with  
16 30,000 plus. And we are strong with that  
17 30,000 plus.

18 Now, any incumbent that wants to work with  
19 us, we already have our chosen incumbents that  
20 are going to work with us, but I want us to  
21 stay unified. And I am here to represent the  
22 city, and I would like for all of us to hold  
23 our signs up as we stand strong with  
24 Jacksonville as a city of fair representation,  
25 because we want to let the state

1 representatives know that we are here to fight  
2 the situation to the point that we want to let  
3 you know that split is not an option.

4 Everybody say it, "Split is not an  
5 option."

6 AUDIENCE: "Split is not an option."

7 MR. MIKE WILSON: Amen. See why we  
8 brought him?

9 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: We are going to  
10 have the ushers pass the plates.

11 MR. LARRY WILSON: Brother Huckabee, you  
12 can relate, here. I'm Larry Wilson, and I  
13 serve as an alderman there in Jacksonville.  
14 And I would like for you, if you could, to get  
15 that senate district as it is proposed up on  
16 the screen. Can we do that? We have talked  
17 about the fact that we don't want to be split,  
18 and I think if you all can visually follow what  
19 we are proposing, it would be helpful. Can you  
20 get one more? Yeah. There, we are getting  
21 warm.

22 If you all can see U.S. 67-167 going  
23 through basically the center of our community,  
24 we will be split basically down the middle.  
25 And on the south -- where his arrow is right

1 now, that area on that side and downtown  
2 Jacksonville, that whole area has approximately  
3 12,000, is that right, Tim?

4 MR. TIM HUMPHRIES: Yes.

5 MR. LARRY WILSON: Voters in it. If we  
6 move that line down to Bayou Meto, which is  
7 kind of a natural boundary, which is something  
8 that you all talked about, that would be --  
9 that would include the vast majority of the  
10 city, it would still have some people that are  
11 in the city in a separate senate district, but  
12 we understand there are some natural boundaries  
13 that need to be taken into consideration. And  
14 that is very much what needs to be done.

15 One of -- I think Senator Gwatney touched  
16 on the fact that Little Rock Air Force Base is  
17 there in our community. It certainly is a huge  
18 part of Jacksonville, but it is a big part of  
19 central Arkansas. It is an economic factor, a  
20 huge economic factor to our state, probably  
21 \$350 million economic impact last year. When  
22 we have a proposed district -- or have proposed  
23 districts like are shown here, you are  
24 virtually assuring that there will never -- for  
25 the next ten years, there will not be any

1 senate representation that will directly be  
2 involved with Little Rock Air Force Base.

3 That is not right. It is patently unfair.

4 It is also unfair for a community our size to  
5 be split like this proposal is. And I  
6 appreciate very much your staffs working with  
7 us to try to look at other options. We need to  
8 keep working and we need to find that option,  
9 because I'm sure there are other ways to get  
10 that -- to get the numbers right. And Tim and  
11 the other members of the staff know exactly  
12 where that split needs to be, and we would  
13 appreciate your support on it. Thank you very  
14 much.

15 MR. OLAN REEVES: Next?

16 MR. DAVID EVANS: I'm David Evans, Mayor  
17 of the City of Searcy, and we are pleased. We  
18 like the senate district very much. We think  
19 that it puts White County together. And I  
20 would like to ask Attorney General -- I'm  
21 sorry, Senator Beebe to please come forward and  
22 speak for us. Would you, Senator?

23 SENATOR MIKE BEEBE: Thank you, Mayor. I  
24 didn't know I was going to do this. I have  
25 been in Hot Springs this morning, and Governor,

1 I appreciate you clearing the troopers off the  
2 highway. I had to speak at 8:30 this morning  
3 at the Farm Bureau, and it was a quick trip  
4 after that speech from Hot Springs to Beebe.

5 I assume that what the mayor was referring  
6 to was the second option that apparently you  
7 all came up with as an alternative to having  
8 Searcy and Jacksonville together. Now, let me  
9 tell you, at the outset, it is my information  
10 that the people from Searcy love the people in  
11 Jacksonville, and the people from Jacksonville  
12 love the people in Searcy, they just want two  
13 separate senate districts.

14 Jacksonville has traditionally been a  
15 large enough hub and a large enough city to  
16 merit and warrant being a central focus of a  
17 senate district, and Senator Gwatney has done a  
18 wonderful job representing them, and obviously  
19 for many years before that, they had a senator  
20 by the name of Max Howell.

21 Searcy, also, is a large community, by  
22 Arkansas standards, and has certainly had  
23 representation, at least for the last 20 years,  
24 as the major city in a senatorial district. I  
25 think that's what precipitated the concern in



1 White County. And I don't want to speak for  
2 Jacksonville, because they can speak for  
3 themselves, but a lot of them are good friends  
4 of mine and I have heard from them that they  
5 shared those same sentiments.

6 Lonoke County, which I have had the  
7 privilege of representing a small portion of,  
8 has for years been split and cut up, and they  
9 are tired of it and they don't want to be  
10 split, and they don't want to be cut up  
11 anymore, they would like to have their county  
12 kept intact. I know you have got a tough job.

13 You can't make everybody happy, you've got  
14 constitutional guidelines to go by, you have  
15 got numbers that have to be met, you've got  
16 factors that have to be considered.

17 I'm glad it is the three of y'all and not  
18 me that has to make this decision. I don't  
19 envy your decision. But I can tell you that  
20 with just a little adjustment that I have heard  
21 from for the benefit of the citizens of  
22 Jacksonville, you might be able to make  
23 everybody happy. Lonoke County is happy being  
24 kept together. As you heard the mayor, White  
25 County is happy being kept together. And with

1           just a little adjustment, I think Jacksonville  
2           can be happy. And I think Sherwood wants to be  
3           with Jacksonville, at least they did the last  
4           time I heard, and you can make all those folks  
5           happy.

6                     Now, I know you are probably going to have  
7           to make somebody mad. You can't do your job  
8           and do it right without making somebody mad. I  
9           think all we are asking is that you make  
10          somebody else mad.

11                    SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Senator  
12          Beebe, I might say, there for the grace of God  
13          and political timing, go you.

14                    MR. TERRY SANSING: My name is Terry  
15          Sansing, I'm an alderman in the City of  
16          Jacksonville. And I was sitting here looking  
17          at the Senate 34 and the numbers from the  
18          senate draft. And I'm asking the question, and  
19          I -- why is the magical number 60 percent? How  
20          does that magical number -- where is that  
21          magical number from in the Voting Rights Act?  
22          And it seems to me that that is a number that  
23          is just put up there arbitrarily for some  
24          reason.

25                    You have seen by the representatives for

1 the people in Jacksonville that we don't have a  
2 problem with the numbers. I know that y'all  
3 have got to comply with it, but it seems to me  
4 that there are ways that y'all can meet the  
5 needs of the people of the citizens of  
6 Jacksonville without cutting the city in half,  
7 and therefore, diluting the historically strong  
8 senate district.

9 Now, some numbers can be met that works up  
10 better than that, but I think that that magic  
11 number of 60 percent needs to be re-thought.  
12 It is just an arbitrary number. It sounds like  
13 a number that would be thrown out there from  
14 the 1960s or late '50s. Folks, this is 2001.  
15 Let's get on with the future and stop worrying  
16 about the past.

17 MR. BILL HARMON: I'm Bill Harmon, Mayor  
18 of Sherwood, and I would like to say we are  
19 pleased that you have at least put us back with  
20 part of Jacksonville. For 30 years, we have  
21 had a senatorial district that had Jacksonville  
22 and Sherwood together. We have never had a  
23 senator from Sherwood, but we have never been  
24 less represented than any senate district in  
25 the state, with first Max Howell and then Bill

1 Gwatney. We have been well represented, we are  
2 happy.

3 We have close ties, we have the same  
4 school districts, we are close to the air base.

5 Everything about our two communities just  
6 meshes. And we would appreciate it if  
7 Jacksonville could be put back together. I  
8 know you have got numbers to work with, you  
9 move this one and you don't move something  
10 else. But for God's sake, keep Sherwood whole  
11 and keep it with Jacksonville, if you possibly  
12 can.

13 Thank you a lot for what you are doing.  
14 And thank you for the change that got us out of  
15 North Little Rock. We didn't belong there. We  
16 didn't belong there at all.

17 MR. JOE PARK: My name is Joe Park, and  
18 I'm from Lonoke County, and I just really want  
19 to echo the sentiment of Senator Beebe. In  
20 Lonoke County, we have been cut off, and we  
21 feel like it is our turn to be politically  
22 relevant. I think White County is already  
23 pleased with the plan. And, you know, I would  
24 like to speak up for our friends to the south  
25 in Jacksonville, if it can -- two senatorial

1 districts can be made, move south to Bayou Meto  
2 without impacting the other plan up here, I  
3 think you've got an opportunity to please the  
4 vast majority of the people here. And I sure  
5 wish you would give that some consideration.  
6 Thank you.

7 MR. GARY FLETCHER: I'm Gary Fletcher, I'm  
8 a city alderman for the City of Jacksonville, I  
9 have been an alderman there for 23 years.  
10 Jacksonville is a unique community like, I  
11 guess, any community can say about themselves,  
12 but there is something that makes us even more  
13 unique than other communities, as Senator  
14 Gwatney and others have talked about, and that  
15 is we are the home of the Little Rock Air Force  
16 Base.

17 In the early 1950s when it came there, it  
18 was a unique challenge for Jacksonville,  
19 especially for the old-timers, to have a new  
20 community within a community. And we have  
21 worked for these last 50 years to bring these  
22 two communities together, and it has took a lot  
23 of work, but there is not a place like  
24 Jacksonville. I guarantee you there is no city  
25 probably in the country that has a military

1 installation there that the two communities  
2 mesh together so well. You don't hardly know  
3 that you've got two communities. And that took  
4 a lot of work.

5 And then, later on, we dealt with an issue  
6 that many of you are aware of, an environmental  
7 issue, the Vertac thing. And again, our  
8 community was split right down the middle,  
9 physically, maybe not with lines and maps, but  
10 we were divided over that. And we came through  
11 that. It seems like every time we come through  
12 something like that, we come back a stronger  
13 community.

14 And I think we have got the strongest  
15 community that we have ever had in  
16 Jacksonville. And it just breaks my heart to  
17 see us sit here and try to be divided again.  
18 We have got the most diverse population,  
19 probably, in Jacksonville, because of the air  
20 base. Senator Gwatney talked about the  
21 economic impact. I've got the study right here  
22 of last year, the economic impact was \$326  
23 million in our community.

24 If we were 50,000 or 60,000 people, I  
25 could understand maybe you would have to draw a

1 line there, but 30,000 people in a state the  
2 size of the State of Arkansas. I mean, there  
3 are cities in the country that are population  
4 bigger than the State of Arkansas total. And  
5 you want to divide our family, and that's what  
6 we are, you know. And I know there has got to  
7 be some underlining political -- I mean, I have  
8 been a Democrat once and I switched parties  
9 because of various reasons, so I have been on  
10 both sides of the fence. I have.

11 But I didn't take a day off from work to  
12 come up here to soft pedal this issue. And if  
13 it means telling it like it is, we've got to  
14 tell it like it is. But there is some politics  
15 here, you know. And folks, these personal  
16 politics is not nearly as important as the  
17 family of the City of Jacksonville. Keep us  
18 together. I mean it, it takes great  
19 communities to make a great state. And you are  
20 fixing to take a great community and split us  
21 right down the middle, and we will be at the  
22 bottom or near the bottom.

23 MR. OLAN REEVES: Any other comments?

24 AUDIENCE: (No response.)

25 MR. OLAN REEVES: Just basically, I did

1 want to tell you the rest of the process. We  
2 have two more meetings today, then Thursday, we  
3 are going to Pine Bluff, El Dorado, and Hope,  
4 next Tuesday we are going to Hot Springs, next  
5 Thursday we will be in Little Rock. And  
6 depending on what the Board decides to do after  
7 all those hearings, direct us to make some  
8 changes, suggestions they heard today, at other  
9 meetings, we will hopefully have a plan that  
10 they can vote on before Labor Day. We had said  
11 October 1st, but we think we can get it done  
12 before Labor Day, which will give everybody a  
13 chance to know what district they are in and  
14 where they need to move or whatever. So we  
15 hope by Labor Day. Other than that, I will  
16 turn it back over to you, Governor.

17 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: I will call upon  
18 each of my colleagues on the Board for closing  
19 comments, and then I will close out the meeting  
20 in just a moment.

21 SECRETARY OF STATE SHARON PRIEST: Again,  
22 I would like to take this opportunity to thank  
23 all of you for coming here. It is extremely  
24 important to how you are represented for the  
25 next ten years. And I also want to take this



1 opportunity to thank you all for making me feel  
2 so popular with all your E-Mails and your  
3 letters. I think from Lonoke County alone I  
4 have a stack this big, (indicating), and I am  
5 trying to respond to them as quickly as  
6 possible. Thank you.

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK PRYOR: I want to  
8 thank y'all for being here, and this has been  
9 very helpful for me, and very informative. And  
10 I guess I just wanted to say before we leave  
11 that we are going to be here for a few minutes,  
12 I know some of y'all need to race back and get  
13 back to work, whatever the case may be, but we  
14 will be here, and y'all can look at these maps.

15 And I know the Governor has to get on back to  
16 Little Rock, but Sharon and I will be here for  
17 a few minutes, and our staffs will be here,  
18 y'all have met most of them. And, you know, we  
19 can talk further in smaller groups if you want  
20 to. But we just really appreciate your time.  
21 And the reason we do this is for you, and we  
22 just appreciate y'all being here.

23 GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE: I notice the  
24 Attorney General said some of you have to get  
25 back to work, but, heck, we will be around.

1 Maybe that was too true for us to really enjoy,  
2 Mark.

3 I want to thank the Secretary of State and  
4 also the Attorney General for their  
5 participation, not only today but through this  
6 whole process, and again their staffs. But most  
7 of all, thank you. This is a very delicate  
8 issue for everyone. You have come today, you  
9 have spoken not only very responsibly, but  
10 respectfully. I hope you don't think that this  
11 was an exercise in futility, because it is not.

12 We sincerely are listening to what you are  
13 saying, and we want to make this work for  
14 everyone's  
15 benefit.

16 I think Sharon said it earlier, we, too,  
17 are all elected. You know, believe this or  
18 not, none of us wake up every morning thinking,  
19 "I wonder who I can make mad at me today?" We  
20 just don't do that. And so we are going to do  
21 everything possible to try to make this work  
22 for as many of the citizens of Arkansas to be  
23 happy as possible. I would tell you that if  
24 you are pleased with the final result, it will  
25 be because of my influence. If you are not, it

1 is because these two guys did it. (Indicating.)

2 At least, that's the way I would like to  
3 believe it, but probably you won't.

4 It is a process in which all of us are  
5 going to put our heads together and try to do  
6 what we can. I thank you very much. You have  
7 been a great group. This is one of the larger,  
8 it may be the largest group we have faced. I  
9 think Mountain Home may have been up until  
10 today. But it shows to us a great deal of  
11 interest in the fact that so many of you are  
12 elected officials in your communities, and that  
13 you have made the attempt to be here today,  
14 also, is very significant, as well as citizens  
15 from throughout these various communities.

16 I hope that, again, you will continue to  
17 let us know if you have other thoughts or  
18 processes. It helps when you even suggest  
19 things, then we can run the numbers on it and  
20 see how that works out. But on behalf of the  
21 Attorney General and Secretary of State, I  
22 thank you very much for coming today, hope you  
23 have a safe trip to your next destination. God  
24 bless. Thank you very much.

25 (WHEREUPON, the taking of the above-

1 entitled proceeding was concluded.)

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12 SIGN-IN SHEETS.

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13 MAPS ENTERED BY RANDY MINTON.

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14 PETITIONS ENTERED BY RANDY MINTON.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARKANSAS       )  
                                  )   ss.:  
COUNTY OF PULASKI       )

I, DEBBYE L. PETRE, Certified Court  
Reporter and notary public in and for the County of  
Pulaski, State of Arkansas, duly commissioned and acting,  
do hereby certify that the above-entitled proceedings  
were taken by me in Stenotype, and were thereafter  
reduced to print by means of computer-assisted  
transcription, and the same truly, and correctly reflects

the proceedings had.

WHEREFORE, I have subscribed my signature  
and affixed my notarial seal as such notary public at the  
City of Little Rock, County of Pulaski, State of  
Arkansas, this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2001.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEBBYE L. PETRE, CCR  
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR  
PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS

My Commission Expires:

August 4, 2010.

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